

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** A heat protection body (5) for a protection system for a furnace inner wall (1), having a front side (7), a rear side (8), and peripheral sides (11, 12, 13, 14) connecting the front side (7) and the rear side (7),
  - a. wherein the heat protection body (5) has in its rear side (8) at least one groove (6) to accommodate a retaining element (4),
  - b. wherein the groove (6) has a first face-side end (6a) open to a peripheral side (14) and a second face-side end (6b) located in the interior of the rear side (8),
  - c. wherein the groove (6) has a cross-section which broadens from the rear side (8) in the direction of the front side (7), and
  - d. wherein the groove cross-section tapers in the longitudinal direction of the groove (6) inwardly from the peripheral side (14).
2. **(ORIGINAL)** The heat protection body of Claim 1, wherein the heat protection body (5) is designed as a plate-shape.
3. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** The heat protection body of ~~Claim 1 or 2~~ Claim 1, wherein the groove cross-section broadens step by step from the rear side (8) in the direction of the front side (7).
4. **(ORIGINAL)** The heat protection body of Claim 3, wherein the groove (6) has a T-shaped cross-section.
5. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** The heat protection body of ~~Claim 1 or 2~~ Claim 1, wherein the groove cross-section broadens constantly from the rear side (8) in the direction of the front side (7).

6. **(ORIGINAL)** The heat protection body of Claim 5, wherein the groove (6) has a trapezoidal cross-section.
7. **(CANCELED)**
8. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** The heat protection body of ~~any one of Claims 1 to 6~~ Claim 1, wherein the heat protection body (5) is manufactured from a ceramic material, preferably silicon carbide.
9. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** The heat protection body of ~~any one of Claims 1 to 8~~ Claim 1, wherein at least one peripheral side (11, 12, 13, 14) has a step running essentially parallel to the front side (8).
10. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** The heat protection body of ~~any one of Claims 1 to 9~~ Claim 1, wherein the rear side (7) is shaped to the outer contour of the furnace wall (1).
11. **(CANCELED)**
12. **(NEW)** The heat protection body of Claim 1 in combination with a boiler tube wall (1) having at least one retaining element (4) projecting therefrom, wherein:
- the retaining element (4) has a free end (4a) corresponding to the cross-section of the groove (6), and
  - the retaining element (4) is fit within the groove (6) of the heat protection body (5).

13. **(NEW)** A heat protection body (5) for a protection system for a furnace inner wall (1), the heat protection body (5) having a front side (7), an opposing rear side (8), and peripheral sides (11, 12, 13, 14) extending therebetween, with a groove (6) extending inwardly from the rear side (8) and one of the peripheral sides (11, 12, 13, 14), wherein the cross-sectional area of the groove (6) continuously decreases as the groove (6) extends inwardly from the one of the peripheral sides (11, 12, 13, 14).
14. **(NEW)** The heat protection body (5) of claim 13 wherein the cross-sectional area of the groove (6) also increases as it extends inwardly from the rear side (8).
15. **(NEW)** The heat protection body (5) of claim 14 wherein the groove (6) defines a T-shape in the one of the peripheral sides (11, 12, 13, 14).
16. **(NEW)** The heat protection body (5) of claim 13 wherein the thickness of the heat protection body (5) between the groove (6) and the rear side (8) increases as the groove (6) extends inwardly from the one of the peripheral sides (11, 12, 13, 14)
17. **(NEW)** The heat protection body (5) of claim 16 wherein the groove (6) defines a T-shape in the one of the peripheral sides (11, 12, 13, 14).

18. (NEW) A heat protection body (5) for a protection system for a furnace inner wall (1), the heat protection body (5) having a front side (7), an opposing rear side (8), and peripheral sides (11, 12, 13, 14) extending therebetween, with a groove (6) extending inwardly from the rear side (8) and one of the peripheral sides (11, 12, 13, 14), wherein:
- a. the groove (6) defines a T-shape in the one of the peripheral sides (11, 12, 13, 14);  
and
  - b. the thickness of the heat protection body (5) between the groove (6) and the rear side (8) continuously increases as the groove (6) extends inwardly from the one of the peripheral sides (11, 12, 13, 14).